

CLAIMS

1. A method for enumerating applications by a remote client computer, the applications being deployed in an Intranet, the remote client computer being external to the Intranet, the method comprising:

 sending a remote application discovery request to a Web service, the Web service being deployed on a remote applications publication (RAP) Web server in the Intranet, the remote application discovery request being sent to the Web service by the remote client computer via a public network coupling the remote client computer to the Web server; and

 responsive to the sending, receiving a discovery response from the Web service, the discovery response identifying at least one application installed on the Intranet for terminal server (TS) based access by a user of the remote client computer

2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the sending and receiving are independent of a Virtual Private Network connection between the remote client computer and the Intranet.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one application is multiple applications, respective ones of the multiple applications having been published by multiple information sources on the Intranet.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the at least one application is multiple applications, respective ones of the multiple applications having been published by multiple information sources on the Intranet, the multiple information sources comprising a directory service, a Systems Management Server (SMS), and/or an office computer associated with the user.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein responsive receiving the discovery response from the Web service, the remote client computer presents respective shortcuts to the user, each shortcut corresponding to an individual one of remote applications identified in the discovery response, each shortcut being selectable by the user to invoke a terminal service, the terminal service executing a corresponding remote application on an associated installation point on the Intranet.

6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the shortcuts represent a merged view of the remote applications, the merged view being independent of respective ones of one or more installations points on the Intranet.

7. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for enumerating applications by a remote client computer, the applications being deployed in an Intranet, the remote client computer being external to the Intranet, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

 sending a remote application discovery request to a Web service, the Web service being deployed on a remote applications publication (RAP) Web server in the Intranet, the remote application discovery request being sent to the Web service by the remote client computer via a public network coupling the remote client computer to the Web server; and

 responsive to the sending, receiving a discovery response from the Web service, the discovery response identifying at least one application installed on the Intranet for terminal server (TS) based access by a user of the remote client computer.

8. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 7, wherein the instructions for sending and receiving are independent of a Virtual Private Network connection between the remote client computer and the Intranet.

9. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 7, wherein the at least one application is multiple applications, respective ones of the multiple applications having been published by multiple information sources on the Intranet.

10. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 7, wherein the at least one application is multiple applications, respective ones of the multiple applications having been published by multiple information sources on the Intranet, the multiple information sources comprising a directory service, a Systems Management Server (SMS), and/or an office computer associated with the user.

11. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 7, wherein the computer-executable instructions further comprise, responsive to receiving the discovery response from the Web service, instructions for presenting respective shortcuts to the user, each shortcut corresponding to an individual one of remote applications identified in the discovery response, each shortcut being selectable by the user to invoke a terminal service, the terminal service executing a corresponding remote application on an associated installation point on the Intranet.

12. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 11, wherein the shortcuts represent a merged view of the remote applications, the merged view being independent of respective ones of one or more installations points on the Intranet.

13. A remote client computer for enumerating applications deployed in an Intranet, the remote client computer being deployed external to the Intranet, the remote client computer comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising computer-program instructions executable by the processor and comprising instructions for:

sending a remote application discovery request to a Web service, the Web service being deployed on a remote applications publication (RAP) Web server in the Intranet, the remote application discovery request being sent to the Web service by the remote client computer via a public network coupling the remote client computer to the Web server; and

responsive to the sending, receiving a discovery response from the Web service, the discovery response identifying at least one application installed on the Intranet for terminal server (TS) based access by a user of the remote client computer.

14. A remote client computer as recited in claim 13, wherein the instructions for sending and receiving are independent of a Virtual Private Network connection between the remote client computer and the Intranet.

15. A remote client computer as recited in claim 13, wherein the at least one application is multiple applications, respective ones of the multiple applications having been published by multiple information sources on the Intranet.

16. A remote client computer as recited in claim 13, wherein the at least one application is multiple applications, respective ones of the multiple applications having been published by multiple information sources on the Intranet, the multiple information sources comprising a directory service, a Systems Management Server (SMS), and/or an office computer associated with the user.

17. A remote client computer as recited in claim 13, wherein the computer-program instructions further comprise, responsive to receiving the discovery response from the Web service, instructions for presenting respective shortcuts to the user, each shortcut corresponding to an individual one of remote applications identified in the discovery response, each shortcut being selectable by the user to invoke a terminal service, the terminal service executing a corresponding remote application on an associated installation point on the Intranet.

18. A remote client computer as recited in claim 17, wherein the shortcuts represent a merged view of the remote applications, the merged view being independent of respective ones of one or more installations points on the Intranet.

19. A remote client computer for enumerating applications deployed in an Intranet, the remote client computer being deployed external to the Intranet, the remote client computer comprising:

means for sending a remote application discovery request to a Web service, the Web service being deployed on a remote applications publication (RAP) Web server in the Intranet, the remote application discovery request being sent to the Web service by the remote client computer via a public network coupling the remote client computer to the Web server; and

means for responsive to the sending, receiving a discovery response from the Web service, the discovery response identifying at least one application installed on the Intranet for terminal server (TS) based access by a user of the remote client computer.

20. A remote client computer as recited in claim 19, wherein the means for sending and receiving are independent of a Virtual Private Network connection between the remote client computer and the Intranet.

21. A remote client computer as recited in claim 19, wherein the at least one application is multiple applications, respective ones of the multiple applications having been published by multiple information sources on the Intranet.

22. A remote client computer as recited in claim 19, wherein the at least one application is multiple applications, respective ones of the multiple applications having been published by multiple information sources on the Intranet, the multiple information sources comprising a directory service, a Systems Management Server (SMS), and/or an office computer associated with the user.

23. A remote client computer as recited in claim 19, wherein the remote client computer further comprises, responsive to receiving the discovery response from the Web service, means for presenting respective shortcuts to the user, each shortcut corresponding to an individual one of remote applications identified in the discovery response, each shortcut being selectable by the user to invoke a terminal service, the terminal service executing a corresponding remote application on an associated installation point on the Intranet.

24. A remote client computer as recited in claim 23, wherein the shortcuts represent a merged view of the remote applications, the merged view being independent of respective ones of one or more installations points on the Intranet.